

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 16-22 are now in this application. Claims 1-17 are rejected. Claims 1-17 are objected to. Claims 13-15 are cancelled. Claims 1-12, 16 and 17 are amended herein to clarify the invention, to broaden language as deemed appropriate and to address matters of form unrelated to substantive patentability issues. New claims 18-22 are added.

Applicant herein traverses and respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of the claims and objections cited in the above-referenced Office Action.

The examiner objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). It is stated that the drawings do not show the gripper units and adjusting means and details of the alignment table. Claims 13-15, which refer to the adjusting means and details of the alignment table have been cancelled, thereby obviating illustration thereof. Proposed drawing amendments of Fig. 1, having changes indicated in red, accompany this amendment and are submitted to overcome the Examiner's objections as they pertain to the gripper units, which, as being disclosed of known configuration, are schematically shown as boxes, in the manner permitted. The specification is amended to conform to the drawing amendments. Additionally, a Letter to the Draftsman pursuant to MPEP 608.02(r) is provided herewith. The applicant elects to delay filing corrected formal drawings until subsequent to the receipt of a Notice of Allowability as per PTOL-37 and CFR §1.85(c).

Claims 1-17 are objected to for noted informalities. The claims are amended to remove or correct these informalities. Therefore withdrawal of the objections to claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5-7 are rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject of the invention. The Office Action cites various informalities in the claim language including unclear language and lack of antecedent bases. The claims are amended to clarify the claimed invention and to place the claims into conformance with U.S. claiming practice. The amendments were made with consideration of the various informalities noted in the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments remove or correct the informalities noted in the Office Action. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of the claims and their allowance are earnestly requested.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for containing subject matter lacking an adequate written description in the specification. It would appear that the subject matter referred to in the rejection, i.e., "format dependent compartments," is actually recited in claim 15 rather than claim 7. In response to the rejection, it is therefore assumed by applicant that the claim at issue is actually claim 15. Claim 15 is cancelled, rendering rejection based upon the noted subject matter moot.

Claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Germann (US 4,633,777). Applicant herein respectfully traverses these rejections.

For a rejection to be sustained under § 102(b) each and every element of the claimed invention must be disclosed in the cited prior art reference. It is respectfully submitted that the cited reference fails to disclose at least the following features and elements of the present invention as noted herein.

Independent claim 1 recites in pertinent part the following:

at least four satellite printing groups for first side printing which are assigned to said counter-pressure cylinder in a rotational direction thereof between the feed system and the output system, each of said at least four satellite printing groups including an image plate carrying cylinder and a blanket carrying cylinder, the counter-pressure cylinder being in a form of a rubber blanket cylinder; and

at least one additional satellite printing group for at least single-color second side printing being assigned to said counter-pressure cylinder in the rotational direction thereof, behind the output cylinder and in front of the feed system, said at least one

additional satellite printing group including an image plate carrying cylinder for transferring ink to said counter-pressure cylinder.

According to such recitation, two sets of satellite printer groups (i.e., one containing at least four printer groups, and the other containing at least one printer group) are arranged about a common, centrally located counter-pressure cylinder. One set is for first side printing and the other for second side printing. Such arrangement permits printing on both sides (i.e., first and second sides) with a single passthrough, and using a commonly-shared counter-pressure cylinder. According to the claimed arrangement, the at least four printer groups deposit ink on one side of the sheet being printed, and ink deposited on the common counter-pressure by the at least one printer group for second side printing is subsequently deposited by the counter-pressure cylinder on the other side of the sheet.

In stark contrast, German discloses two counter-pressure cylinders (6 and 16), corresponding respectively to two individual sets of satellite printer groups, which function towards one another as impression cylinders, each which deposits ink on a respective opposite side of a sheet being printed.

Independent claim 1, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, particularly describe and distinctly claim at least one element not disclosed in the cited reference.

Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6-9 and 16-17 and their allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5 are rejected as obvious over Germann under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The applicant herein respectfully traverses this rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that the Germann reference cannot render the rejected claims obvious because the reference does not provide the teaching noted above with respect to the anticipation rejection of claim 1, from which they depend. Thus, the reference fails to teach or suggest all the claim limitations as properly required to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 3-5 and their allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 9-11 are rejected as obvious over Germann in view of Knauer et al. (US 5,772,804) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The applicant herein respectfully traverses this rejection.

Knauer et al., cited for its teaching allegedly relating to a drive with a motor and gearing arrangements, fails to provide the features missing from Germann, as noted above with respect to the anticipation rejection of claim 1, from which claims 9-11 depend. Therefore, the proffered combination of references fails to disclose all claimed features, as necessary to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 9-11 and their allowance are respectfully requested.

Claim 12 is rejected as obvious over Germann in view of Richards (US 6,145,435) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The applicant herein respectfully traverses this rejection.

Richards, cited for its teaching allegedly relating to disposition of a feed system and an output system at essentially the same height, fails to provide the features missing from Germann, as noted above with respect to the anticipation rejection of claim 1, from which claims 12 depends. Therefore, the proffered combination of references fails to disclose all claimed features, as necessary to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 12 and its allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 13-15 are rejected as obvious over Germann in view of Oda (US 4,854,232) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 13-15 are cancelled, rendering the rejections moot.

Claims 18-22 are added and are submitted as patentable over the cited art of record insofar as they recite features not believed disclosed in the cited art in the manner as claimed. Favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Applicant respectfully requests a one (1) month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. Please charge the fee of \$110 for the extension of time to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

Respectfully submitted,

JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP

By Frank J. Jordan by:
Frank J. Jordan
Reg. No. 20,456
Attorney for Applicant

Jordan and Hamburg LLP
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10168
(212) 986-2340

Frank J. Jordan
Reg. No. 36,049

APPENDIX I**AMENDED SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPHS WITH AMENDMENTS
INDICATED THEREIN BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING**

Pages 4 and 5, amend the paragraph bridging these pages as indicated below:

The inventive design of the satellite printing machine 1 is provided with a counter-pressure cylinder 2, which is developed as a rubber cylinder, as well as an additional satellite printing group W for at least single-color second printing, is assigned to said cylinder in the rotational direction D behind the output system 4 and in front of the feed cylinder 3. When processing sheets as printing stock, the feed cylinder 3 and the output system 4 are developed as gripper units 70 comprising tension elements and tension channels, which are generally known, and therefore not shown in detail [as well as tension channels (not shown)]. Further, an aligning table T is arranged before the feed cylinder 3, which during operation is adjustable in the transverse direction, in height and/or diagonally to the direction of feed.

APPENDIX II

AMENDED CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS INDICATED THEREIN BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING

1. (Amended) A satellite [Satellite] printing machine for printing sheets, comprising:

a feed system;

an output system;

a single central counter-pressure cylinder [(2)]disposed between said feed system and said output system;

[and a number of]at least four satellite printing groups [(S)] for first side printing[,] which are assigned to said counter-pressure cylinder in [the] a rotational direction [(D)] thereof between the feed system[, comprising a feed cylinder (3)] and [an] the output system [cylinder (4)], [characterized in that]each of said at least four satellite printing groups including an image plate carrying cylinder and a blanket carrying cylinder, the counter-pressure cylinder [(2)] is developed] being in a form of [as] a rubber blanket cylinder; and

at least one additional satellite printing group [(W)] for at least single-color second side printing [is] being assigned to said [cylinderin] counter-pressure cylinder in the rotational direction [(D)] thereof, behind the output cylinder[system (4)] and in front of the feed system [(3)], said at least one additional satellite printing group including an image plate carrying cylinder for transferring ink to said counter pressure cylinder.

2. (Amended) A satellite [Satellite] printing machine as defined in [Claim] claim 1, wherein the [counter] counter-pressure cylinder [(2)] is provided

with a gripper unit which grabs a sheet for full-size printing on both sides of the sheet in a single gripper bite.

3. (Amended) A satellite [Satellite] printing machine as defined in [Claim] claim 1, wherein said at least four satellite printing groups include up to ten satellite printing groups [(S)] for said first side printing, and said at least one additional satellite printing group includes up to ten satellite printing groups [(W)] for said second side printing [are assigned to the counter-pressure cylinder (2)].

4. (Twice amended) A Satellite [Satellite] printing machine as defined in claim 1, wherein the counter-pressure cylinder [(2) comprises] has a periphery of 500 to 3000 mm.

5. (Twice amended) A satellite [Satellite] printing machine as defined in claim 1, wherein [the] said at least four satellite groups include five satellite printing groups arranged along an upper arc of a circle of the counter-pressure cylinder [(2) is provided with five satellite printing groups (S), comprising], said five satellite printing groups being mutually spaced at an angular distance [(W)] of 35° to 45° to each other[, preferably 38°].

6. (Twice amended) A satellite [Satellite] printing machine as defined in claim 1, wherein said second side printing is effected by a transfer of ink in [the] an area between the feed [cylinder (3)] system and a first one of said at least four [the] satellite printing [group] groups [(S)] which follows in the rotational direction [D] of the counter-pressure cylinder [(2)].

7. (Twice amended) A satellite [Satellite] printing machine as defined in claim 1, wherein [in the] said first and second side printing occur simultaneously

in an area of [the first] said at least four satellite printing groups [group (S) second and first printing occur simultaneously] which follows the feed [cylinder (3)] system in the direction of rotation [D] of the counter-pressure cylinder [(2)].

8. (Twice amended) A satellite [Satellite] printing machine as defined in claim 1, wherein the image plate carrying and blanket carrying cylinders [(5, 6)] of the at least four satellite printing groups [(S)] are in synchronous drive connection with the counter-pressure cylinder [(2)] and jointly are adjustable in [the] a peripheral alignment relative to the counter-pressure cylinder [(2)].

9. (Twice amended) A satellite [Satellite] printing machine as defined in claim 1, [wherein said machine comprises] further comprising a drive with toothed-wheel gearing.

10. (Twice amended) A satellite [Satellite] printing machine as defined in claim 1, [wherein said machine comprises] further comprising a drive with at least one [or several servomotors] servomotor.

11. (Amended) A satellite [Satellite] printing machine as defined in [Claims] claim 8 or 9, wherein:

the counter-pressure cylinder includes a helical gear wheel;

the image plate carrying and blanket carrying cylinders [(5, 6)] of the at least four satellite printing groups [(S)] are driven by helical gear wheels [(20, 30)] which mesh with [a] said helical gear wheel [(28 a)] of the counter-pressure cylinder [(2)];

[in that the] said helical gear wheel is sectioned [(28 b), and] to form a [the] gear wheel section [(18 a),] which meshes with a remaining section of the helical gear wheel [(28 a)], said gear wheel section being [is] movable by [means of an adjusting unit (21)] in [the] a direction of [the] an axis [(A)] thereof.

12. (Twice amended) A satellite [Satellite] printing machine as defined in claim 1, wherein the feed system [(3)] and the output system [(4)] are disposed at essentially [the] a same height above a base plane of the machine and define an approximately horizontal operating level.

~~13~~ 16. (Twice amended) A satellite [Satellite] printing machine as defined in claim [1]21, wherein said first and second satellite printing group sets are operable [machine comprises printing groups] for at least one of flatbed [and/or], rotogravure [and/or], letterpress [and/or], silk-screen [and/or], xerographic [and/or] and ink jet printing.

~~14~~ 17. (Twice amended) A satellite [Satellite] printing machine as defined in claim 1, wherein the printing groups for both said first and second side printing are arranged one after the other, for successive printing without a requirement of intermediate drying.